

LIBRARY

LEOMINSTER & WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT
Herefordshire

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the
State of the Public Health
for the year 1952.



Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.	(I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., (D.T.M. & H., (Appointed 19th. August, 1952) (L.N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Resigned 19th. August, 1952)
Sanitary Inspector.	G.E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R.San.I.,
Pest Officer.	GEOFFREY E. BULL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1952. Its production has been delayed on this occasion through our having decided to duplicate the annual reports for the various Councils in the office in an effort to reduce the burden on the rates. Last year the cost of printing the report was £8. 15. Od.: this year the duplication has effected a saving of about £6. 10. Od.

The resignation of my predecessor took place on August 19th. so the data, as set out, relate largely to work undertaken by him and by your Sanitary Inspector.

It will be seen from the section on Tuberculosis that twelve new cases were notified during the year. That brings the number of cases on the Register to seventy-eight. The search for early cases among family contacts is better organised nowadays. General practitioners are taking advantage of the facilities for X-ray examination and for consultation and many more children whose general health is poor are having Tuberculin tests applied. Fresh cases are brought to light in this way much earlier than hitherto.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 95.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94,101
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,420

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	154	66	88
(Illegitimate)	..	..	17	8	9
Total	..	..	171	74	97
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	1	-	1
(Illegitimate)	..	..	Nil	-	-
Total	..	..	1	-	1
DEATHS	..	..	132	71	61
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	.	..	Nil	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE					
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	..	..	4	3	1
(Illegitimate)	..	..	2	1	1

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	16.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.3
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	0.09
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	12.7
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	35.1
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	27.6

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

CLINICS.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district :-

SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic	...	Monday and Friday, 10 to 11 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	Tuesdays (By appointment)
Speech Therapy Clinic	...	Wednesdays (By appointment)
Child Psychology	...	Thursdays (By appointment)
Vaccination	...	1st. Friday of each month, 11 a.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic	...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.

All the foregoing clinics and the Orthopaedic After Care Clinic, which is organised on a voluntary basis, are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye, Paediatric and Tuberculosis Clinics in Hereford as and when required.

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Leintwardine.

Samples of water from the well supplying Leintwardine have been taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological analysis and results in all cases have been satisfactory. Chlorination of the supply is being successfully carried out. The plan to pipe the water supply to a larger part of the village has not yet been put into operation. A Public Inquiry was held and a decision is awaited from the Ministry.

Adforton.

Work has commenced on the Adforton Village Water Supply Scheme. This will serve the whole of the village. The water is obtained from a borehole and pumped through a combined pumping and delivery main to a reservoir. The completion of the installation will be early in the new year.

WATER SAMPLING.

Bacteriological.

219 Bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Hereford for analysis. These samples produced the following results:-

Satisfactory	..	..	..	138
Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	81

Chemical.

9 Chemical samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Birmingham for analysis. These samples produced the following results:-

Satisfactory	..	..	..	7
Unsatisfactory	.	..	..	2

The major part of the district is supplied by private wells; only a few Parishes being favoured with a piped supply. The Parishes with a piped supply are as follows:-

Wigmore	..	..	..	..	62 houses on standpipe.
Adforton	..	..	..	.	25 houses on standpipe.
Brampton Bryan	..	..	..	.	24 houses and school on mains.
Leintwardine	..	..	..	.	136 houses and school on mains.
Kinton Supply					10 houses on standpipe.
Whitton Supply					11 houses on standpipe.
Pump House					7 houses on standpipe.
Shobdon	..	..	..	.	11 houses on standpipe.
Temporary Houses					44 temporary dwellings on mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Housing Sites.

Sewage Disposal Works on Housing Sites have been inspected weekly. These plants are working very satisfactorily. The contents of the settling tanks are removed every four months, ensuring an efficient working clean plant.

Sewage disposal in the district is mainly by private septic tanks and filters; in other cases by the conservancy system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution of any rivers or streams occurred during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A satisfactory house-to-house refuse collection is carried out by the Local Authority and this is working well. Additional areas were included in the existing scheme. Tips are now situated at Shobdon, Bodenham, Leintwardine and Brimfield. The Kingsland tip has been filled to ground level and tipping has been discontinued.

DISINFECTION on account of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Fifty-five inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at thirty-five houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Food.

Inspections, etc. under	Number	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing & Public Health Acts	430	150	3	126
Factories Acts	94	12	-	12
Milk Regulations 1949 . .	36	-	-	-
Bakehouses	32	8	-	8
Food Premises	458	7	-	7
Schools	21	8	-	8
Water Supplies	219	52	-	54
Infectious Disease	55	-	-	-
Knackers Yard	19	1	-	1
Hop-pickers' Quarters . .	12	3	-	3

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

Ninty-four inspections have been made at the factories with and withour mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small generally, only employing two or three persons. Twelve Informal Notices have been served for minor defects. On the whole the Regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	42	44	10	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	5	10	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	32	40	2	-
TOTAL	79	94	12	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	10	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	14	14	-	-	-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Survey of all properties is being carried out under the above Act, and free treatments for private dwelling houses is now available.

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses excluding combined dwelling business premises	Agricultural	All other including Business and Industrial	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	7	2,492	564	185	3,248
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of Notification or (b) otherwise	(a) -	7	4	1	12
	(b) 7	740	211	94	1,052
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested with rats.	7	11	18	3	39
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	-	-	-	-	-
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	7	11	-	-	18

SECTION D - HOUSING

Number of Council Houses built by Local Authority in 1952 were:-

Permanent brick	..	..	2
Temporary	25

The number of houses built by private persons:-

Permanent brick	7
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INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					430
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					175

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

Proceedings under Public Health Act:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..
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2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- (a) By owners 1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner Nil

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal 276
Statutory 3

DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out :-

Spouting repaired 13	Pumps repaired 5
Roofs 26	Dangerous walls . .. 10
Drains . .. 46	Defective floors . .. 10
Dampness 11	Windows repaired . .. 17
Septic Tanks Constructed .. 22	Doors repaired . .. 11
Defective cesspools . .. 17	Plaster repaired . .. 11
W.C.s. provided 19	Chimneys repaired .. 27
New sinks fitted 20	Def. cooking Acc. .. 16
Baths fitted . .. 13	Stairs repaired . .. 9
W.C.s. repaired 3	Pantries provided .. 6
Foul earth closets . .. 5	Washing Acc. provided . 7
Defective wells 52	Other Nuisances . .. 15
New Wells 6	

VAN DWELLINGS

There are several Van Dwellings in the district. Most of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. The remainder are of a temporary nature and are privately owned. In general, they obtain their water from the nearest dwelling; and use chemical closets.

CAMPING SITES

Where camping does occur in the district it is only for short periods.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

348 Inspections were made at various foodshops in the district. Eleven notices were served for limewashing and these were carried out. The following foodstuff was condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned fruit	90 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	Bacon	71 lb.
" vegetables	35 lb.	Meat	117 lb.
" milk	58 lb.		
" meat	14 lb.		
" soup	1 lb.		
" fish	10 lb.		

No central slaughtering is carried out in the district.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	8	5	-	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	7	6	16	29	4	1	-	-	63
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3
Measles	1	8	11	29	2	1	1	-	53
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	1	-	5	-	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation and number who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immunisation at an earlier age, during the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1952.

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
28	90	39	157	255

The Registrar General regrets that owing to a reduction in the sources of information available for estimating local populations under 15 years of age for County Districts, it will no longer be possible to supply estimates of such populations.

Population figures under 15 have been supplied in the past mainly to provide a basis for estimating the proportion of the child population in the area which had been immunised against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1952 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of fifty males and twenty-eight females who normally reside within the district.

During the year twelve new cases were notified, eight on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period two deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, two recovered and three left the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .	8	9	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	4	3	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	12	9	21
21. Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	2	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operation of war ...	-	-	-

